

## When You Give Gloves GIVE BEST GLOVES

In other words, choose your Gift Gloves from the Kaufmann stocks. We have done all that a woman usually has to do—we have seen to it that the best Gloves at their respective prices are here.

Yours but to make selection!



ENGLISH WALKING GLOVES, one-clasp, a perfect shade of tan; regularly \$1.10, pair, 75c day.

LA FAVORITE. Two-clasp Glace Kid Glove, with reinforced seams; black, white and colors; pair, \$1.

PIQUE KID GLOVES, with heavy embroidered backs, in two-toned effects, welt at wrist; pair, \$1.50.

CHICO, elbow length Musq Glace Glove, Cleopatra buttons, white only, \$2.38.

TEDDY BEAR MITTENS for children, lined, red, white and gray, with cord to go round neck; pair, 39c.

CHILDREN'S CAPE GLOVES, Ireland Bros. make; sizes 600 to 5; a dresy little folks' glove; pair, \$1.

**Kaufmann & Company**  
Corner Fourth and Broad Streets.

## Social and Personal

Red bells, crimson flowers and great branches of holly and mistletoe will decorate the Country Club of Virginia this evening for the informal hop that will follow dinner. Many will motor out from town for tea in the afternoon, and several pretty dinners will be given in the evening. Miss Mary Herbert, daughter of Mrs. E. O. Herbert, will be hostess at the third of a series of dinners given at the club to-night, and the guests will remain for the dancing.

The Hermitage Golf Club will also

be thronged with guests and members this afternoon for the usual tea and dancing. The clubhouse is arranged throughout with red and green decorations, holly and running cedar being used everywhere.

**Gregory-Hancock.**  
Mrs. Beverly A. Hancock, of Forest Hill, has issued invitations for the marriage of her daughter, Mary Beverly, to Curry Wilmer Gregory, the ceremony to take place on Thursday evening, January 1, at 7 o'clock in the Baltimore Street Baptist Church, South Richmond. Miss Hancock is a daughter of the late Judge Beverly A. Hancock, of Chesterfield County, who was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and the groom-elect is a son of Judge and Mrs. James M. Gregory, of Woodland Heights, former Commonwealth's attorney of Chesterfield County.

**Thamman-Levy.**  
The marriage of Miss Rebecca Levy, of Norfolk, and Dr. B. M. Thamman, of Baltimore, was quietly celebrated in a private parlor of the Jefferson Hotel Thursday evening. The ceremony was performed by Dr. E. N. Calisch, and among the limited number of guests present were Mr. and Mrs. M. Levy, of Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Levy and Maxwell L. Levy, of Harvard University.

**Visiting Here.**  
Mrs. Pearl Tyler Ellis, of Montgomery County, is the guest of her cousin, Mrs. George Franklin Merrill, 127 East Cary Street, for some time. Mrs. Ellis is in Richmond to be with her husband, William Munford Ellis, who is quite ill at St. Luke's Hospital in this city.

**McDougall Kitchen Cabinets and Detroit Jewel Gas Ranges** make sweet tempered housewives.

**JURGENS**  
Adams and Broad.

**Hopkins Furniture Co.**  
7 West Broad St.  
Cash or Credit.

**THE FREED**  
MADE FROM PILLSBURY'S BEST FLOUR.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE New Method Gas Ranges**  
—AT  
**PETTT & CO.'S**  
MADE FROM PILLSBURY'S BEST FLOUR.

**ATMOR**  
RAISED FROM FLEISHMANN'S YEAST.

**Ask to see the Best Heater**  
at Bryan Smith.

Men's, Women's and Children's Felt and Leather House Slippers make a useful Xmas present.

**Hochheimer's**  
Third and Broad.

**Sydner & Hundley**  
are showing the largest collection of HANDSOME FURNITURE this season they have ever exhibited.

**GIFT PIECES A SPECIALTY.**

P. M. S. College in New York, will arrive to-day to spend the holidays here.

Mrs. H. C. Rueger, who was recently operated on at Stuart Circle Hospital, is very much improved, and has returned to her home, 1515 Grove Avenue.

Mrs. Archie Brooks has returned to Williamsburg, after a short stay in this city.

Miss Ruth Driscoll, of Tocco, is visiting relatives in Richmond this week.

J. C. Paulett has returned to his home in Charlotte, after a brief stay in Richmond.

George H. Scott and Edward V. Breeden have been visiting friends in Covington.

Miss Annie Wilkinson, of Roanoke, will come to Richmond Tuesday to spend the holidays with relatives.

Mrs. John W. Jones, of Williamsburg, has returned to her home, after visiting friends here.

Mrs. O. S. Sutton, who has been spending the past month with her father, Rev. D. S. Henkle, in Chatham, has returned to Richmond.

Miss Mary Smith, of Newport News, is spending some time with friends in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Fox, of Staunton, are in Richmond for a stay of several weeks.

Mrs. L. A. Bryant, of Chestnut Level, who was operated on at the Memorial Hospital recently, is now much improved.

O. Yates, of Richmond, is the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Yates, in Chatham for the holiday season.

Mrs. J. H. Mabry, of Newport News, has returned to her home, after a visit to her sister, Mrs. Howard Anderson.

Mrs. E. R. Alphin has returned to Richmond, after spending several days in Staunton.

Miss Arabella Hayes Dudley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Dudley, will give a big dinner at the Jefferson tomorrow night for the debutantes of the season.

Miss Fannie Amelia Hoffmann, of Staunton, N. C., and Miss Fannie Shirley Rosenbarger, of Williamsburg, N. C., are guests of the Misses Clarke, at 1320 Monument Avenue.

**Approaching Marriage.**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Heathsville, Va., December 19.—Edgar Crabbe, of Alexandria, who was the contracting party for the wedding of the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harvey, of Montvale, and Claude Miller, of Bridgewater, Rev. J. R. James was the officiating minister for the ceremony. The bride and groom were taken to the home of the bride, where they will make their home.

**Defunct Mutes Wed.**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Montvale, Va., December 19.—On December 17, the Methodist Church was the scene of a quiet wedding. The contracting parties were Miss Susan, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harvey, of Montvale, and Claude Miller, of Bridgewater. Rev. J. R. James was the officiating minister for the ceremony. The bride and groom were taken to the home of the bride, where they will make their home.

**Approaching Marriage.**  
Orange, Va., December 19.—Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Farrar announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Gertrude Frances, to William Swain McClure, of Charlottesville, Va., the ceremony to take place on Monday, December 23, at Orange. The bride is a very popular young business woman, and has held a position with the Virginia Life Insurance Company for five years. After January 1 they will be home to their friends at Charlottesville.

**Briggs-Mills.**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Fredericksburg, Va., December 19.—John Briggs and Miss Blanche Mills, both of Stafford County, came here yesterday and were united in marriage at the residence of Rev. R. A. Williams, D. D., of the Baptist Church, who performed the ceremony. They will make their home in Stafford County.

**Gordon-Stevens.**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Manassas, Va., December 19.—A quiet wedding ceremony was solemnized this evening at 8 o'clock at the Blenheim Court, Washington, D. C., the home of Mrs. Margaret Spindle, when her niece, Miss Elsie Littleton Stevens, of Centerville and Washington, became the bride of Bryan Gordon, of Manassas. After a short wedding tour, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon will make their home at the residence of Judge C. E. Nicol.

**Quiet Wedding.**  
Mrs. Maud Watkins and Chatterton Harmon were quietly married on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home of the bride, near Church Road. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Harmon left for an extended Northern trip, and will be at home after December 25.

**Norfolk Engagements.**  
Says the Leader-Dispatch:  
Mrs. Jefferson James Robbins announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Miss Helen Jefferson Robbins, to John Herbert Bryan, of Richmond, and Miss Gertrude Chamberlain Robbins to Audley Lee Fisher, of Virginia Beach. The ceremony will take place on January 5.

**In and Out of Town.**  
Miss Alston Drake is returning to-day from Danville, after a visit to her sister, Mrs. James I. Pritchett, Jr.

Albert F. Hunt, Jr., who is a student at V. P. I. this session, will return to-day to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Hunt, of 1603 West Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Thompson have returned from a month's visit to their country home, near Dinwiddie Courthouse.

Miss Pauline Anderson, of the Mary Baldwin Seminary, Staunton, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Anderson, at 2326 West Grace Street.

Miss Frances Irwin, of Charleston, W. Va., will arrive in Richmond shortly to visit friends.

Mrs. W. H. Pursey, of Clifton Forge, is spending several days in this city.

T. M. Rohr, who has been visiting in Harrisonburg, is now the guest of his daughter, Mrs. H. M. Owen, in Richmond.

Mrs. M. D. Eastwood has returned to Richmond after a visit to Mrs. W. G. Vaughan, in Portsmouth.

Mrs. J. J. Lanier has returned to her home in Fredericksburg, after spending some time in Warrenton and Richmond.

Miss Haglah French is the guest of Miss Sarah Hamilton in Petersburg, before returning to New York.

Wyndham and Wallace Blanton, who have been studying medicine at the

Xmas Boxes Free **THALHIMER'S** Xmas Cards Free

Store Open Until 9 o'clock To-Night

## Now's the Time to complete Your Shopping List

And the Thalhimers Men's Department is the place to have it filled. For here the best values in all Richmond await you. We invite comparison with values offered at other stores.

### Men's Pajamas and Night Robes

Men's Silk-Finished Pajamas, in pink, light blue, tan and white; trimmed with silk frogs; special, \$1.30.

Men's Seco Silk Pajamas, in the best colors, in holiday boxes, \$3.98.

Men's Plain White and Madras Stripe Pajamas, with silk frog trimmings; \$1.25 regular price; special, \$1.00.

Men's \$1.25 Flannelette Pajamas, with silk frog trimmings; special, \$1.00.

Men's Cotton and Flannelette Night Robes, full cut and well made, for 50c.

Men's \$2.00 Fancy Stripe Pajamas; special for Saturday, \$1.00.

### Men's Combination Sets

Men's Suspender Combination Sets, consisting of Suspenders, Hose Supporters and Arm Bands; a 75c value, for 50c.

Phoenix Combination Set, of one pair of the Silk Lisle Socks and Silk Tie to match, in handsome Christmas box; special value, 50c.

Handsome Combination Set, of Silk Handkerchief, Tie and Silk Lisle Socks to match; special, \$1.00.

Men's Combination Sets, of Arm Bands and Hose Supporters, in beautiful Christmas boxes, 39c value; special, 25c.

Men's All Pure Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, 6 nicely boxed, for 75c.

Men's Phoenix Silk Hose, each pair in pretty Christmas box; all wanted colors; per pair, 50c.

### Guaranteed Hosiery

Holeproof Hosiery, guaranteed to wear for six months; 6 pairs for \$1.50.

3 pairs of Silk Hose, in handsome box, for \$1.00.

4 pairs of Notescam Silk Lisle Hose, in Christmas box, for \$1.00.

Wonder Hose, 4 pairs for \$1.00; guaranteed to wear 4 months.

### Handsome Bath Robes

at \$4.98

In all the most desirable color combinations.

Beautiful Bath Robes, in plaid and Indian effects; special, \$5.98.

Extra values offered at \$5.48 in strikingly clever patterns.

A few more left of those All Wool Smoking Jackets, at \$4.98.

Men's \$2.40 Coat Sweaters; special, \$1.98.

\$1.50 Coat Sweaters, in maroon only, 98c.

\$1.00 ones, in gray and navy; special, 79c.

Store Open Until 9 o'clock To-Night

## FUTURE OF DYNASTY DEPENDS ON PALACE

Popular Superstition Which Causes Desperate Efforts to Save Building.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

The people of Schwerin labored so hard on Monday morning last to preserve the palace of the grand duke from total destruction from fire, during the great quake that was acting in the role of a blowpipe to the flames, it was because in their eyes the existence not only of the building and all the treasures contained therein were threatened with annihilation, but even that of the dynasty.

The fortunes of the grand ducal house of Mecklenburg-Schwerin are by popular superstition bound up with those of the palace. Certain portions of the latter date from the seventh century, and well-nigh every century since that time is represented in its architecture.

Standing on an island between two lakes, it has been repeatedly attacked by fire, but on each occasion only a portion has been destroyed, and the remainder, instead of being pulled down, was retained to form part of the reconstruction. Indeed, there is a very ancient Mecklenburg legend, universally believed throughout the grand duchy, to the effect that if ever the palace is entirely destroyed, the dynasty will come to an end. Luckily, only about a third of the palace was burned down last Monday, and it will speedily be rebuilt by the grand duke, who is very rich, indeed.

The fortunes of the reigning family of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and of the palace are specially conjoined to the care of a familiar spirit, or banshee, who appears spectrally at the hour of the death of any member of the dynasty, by way of warning the individual in question that his or her last hour is at hand. The banshee goes among the people of Mecklenburg by the name of "Petersmann," and a much battered statue, representing him as a

dwarf, with an abnormally long body, and ridiculously abbreviated legs, garbed in the dress of the end of the fifteenth century, has for hundreds of years occupied a niche in the wall of one of the courtyards of the palace.

Had he by any chance been consumed in the fire, the Mecklenburgers would have been convinced that their ruler, and the members of his house were doomed, since Petersmann in the luck, or mascot, of the dynasty. The fire, however, did not touch him, and he bids fair to continue for many years to

come, to adorn his niche, and to watch over the destinies of the young monarch, and of his Danish consort.

Americans, although they rarely visit Schwerin, nevertheless are strangely familiar with the palace of the grand duke there, partially destroyed, by last week's fire. The reason for this is that quite a number of bogus German noblemen in this country have shown photographs of this particular palace, declaring that it was the abode of their family in the old country. As such pictures thereof have been widely printed in American and Canadian newspapers, a bogus Count Blucher distinguishing himself in this respect.

The grand duke is still a comparatively young man, having been born at Palermo but a little over thirty years ago, in spite of which he is completely bald. He is married to a sister of the now sovereign Duke of Brunswick, the grand duchess being also a princess of Great Britain and Ireland, and, while one of his sisters is Queen of Denmark, another is Crown Princess Cecilia of Germany. He was but a boy of thirteen when he succeeded to the throne on the tragic death, in Cannes, on the French Riviera, of his father, who was found dead, some holding to the belief that he committed suicide, while others insist that he fell over the parapet during an attack of vertigo.

The present grand duke is very liberal-minded, and has been ever since he attained his majority, in open conflict with his nobles, on the subject of the franchise. Mecklenburg-Schwerin and her sister, grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, are the only two counties in Europe that are without any popular form of government. All the power is restricted in the hands of the territorial nobility, according to a Constitution dating from medieval times, and which has never been changed since. These territorial nobles form a species of diarchy, which meets only once every two or three years, and then only for a few weeks, just long enough to vote down by an overwhelming majority all projects of liberal reform.

The conditions which prevail in Mecklenburg-Schwerin are almost inconceivable in their anachronism. Thus, in the theatres and at the opera at Schwerin, all the best seats in the house are reserved for the nobility, people who cannot boast of blue blood being debarred therefrom, no matter how much they may be willing to pay for the places.

The grand duke has repeatedly endeavored to persuade the nobles to consent to an amendment to the Constitution, with a view to the extension of the franchise, and to the popularizing of the government, but has always been turned down. Of course, he might make use of his sovereign power to abolish the existing Constitution, or to decree its reformation on altogether modern lines, but it has been pointed out to him that this would constitute a violation of the pledges given by his ancestors to the nobles of the grand duchy, and that, moreover, if the people were taught that they could overthrow the Constitution sufficiently to wrest from the nobles their prerogatives, they might be encouraged thereby to demand similar sacrifices on the part of the reigning house.

Meanwhile, universal suffrage prevails in the grand duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and in that of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, for the Reichstag, that is to say, for the Parliament of the empire, sitting at Berlin; so that a Mecklenburger who does not happen to be a territorial noble, has a voice in the government of the empire as a whole, but not in that of his own grand duchy.

The Countess Miranda, whose "Reminiscences" have just appeared in Paris, where they have been extensively quoted by some of the daily newspapers, is no other than the once so famous prima donna, Christine Nilsson, the now almost forgotten chief rival of Adelina Patti. Whereas the latter has managed to keep her name before the public since she retired from the stage, and from the concert platform, Christine Nilsson has been entirely forgotten. Yet she is a woman of greater brilliancy, and at the climax of their respective careers, Christine was the more admired of the two.

The way in which she came to conceal her identity beneath the name of a Countess Miranda is rather peculiar. The count was her spouse only in name, and never lived with her. Christine merely married him on account of his daughter. The latter was a lovely girl of the brunette type, as dark, indeed, as the prima donna was in those days. Christine made in those days a close acquaintance at Nice, became devotedly attached to her, and finally declared that, as she could not bear the idea of separation, she had resolved to adopt her.

The Count Miranda gave his consent, although, however, that the singer, who had retired from the stage with a very large and carefully invested fortune, should likewise adopt him—as a husband—and provide for his financial welfare, undertaking to remain his husband in name only, and not to force his company upon her. This was just the kind of husband that Christine needed, to set at rest the gossip which had followed the death in a lunatic asylum of her first husband, and from that time forth, when the count was in France, and when he was in Sweden, she was either at

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